



Traffic Services Section Michigan State Police Field Update #26

Providing Traffic Related Information and Services to Michigan Law Enforcement

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Electric Bicycles

A bicycle equipped with either an electric or gasoline motor meets both the definition of Motor Vehicle, [MCL 257.33](#), and Moped, [MCL 257.32b](#), and is subject to state laws and local ordinances applicable to motor vehicles rather than those governing the use of bicycles. Some retailers and operators of electric bicycles are under the misconception that a federal law exempts these vehicles from applicable motor vehicle laws. They will cite [Public Law 107-319](#), which makes low speed electric bicycles consumer products rather than motor vehicles **solely for the purpose of manufacturing requirements and safety standards**.

Contrary to the misconception of these retailers and operators, Public Law 107-319 **has no effect on state laws or local ordinances governing the use of vehicles** on public streets and highways. The federal law is very clear on this distinction. At least one manufacturer of these vehicles provides the [correct information](#) to the public. As always, common sense and good judgement should be used when taking enforcement action.

Motorcycle Crash Supplemental Form UD-10MC

Beginning on January 1, 2007, the Michigan State Police (MSP) Traffic Services Section (TSS) will be conducting a two-year study on motorcycle injury and fatality characteristics in an attempt to find solutions to the problem of an increase in both the numbers and rate of motorcycle fatalities in Michigan. In particular, the study will examine the roles of motorcycle safety training, license endorsement, and helmet use.

All MSP personnel will be required to complete this form for all crashes involving a motorcycle as defined by [MCL 257.31](#), and submit the report directly to TSS. Other agencies that would like to contribute to motorcycle traffic safety by participating in this study should contact [Sgt. Steve Spink](#) at (517) 336-6685 for information and to obtain copies of the form.

Motorcycle Headlamp Modulator Law

As discussed previously in [Field Update #7](#), [MCL 257.698\(4\)](#) has allowed motorcycles in Michigan to be equipped with conspicuity enhancing headlamp modulators as an exception "otherwise provided by law" to the prohibition against unapproved lighting on vehicles. Because of the ongoing confusion, [2006 PA 453](#) was recently enacted to specifically allow these safety enhancing devices, provided they are in compliance with [49 CFR 571.108 S7.9.4](#).

Flicker rates and intensities are strictly regulated, with the bulb intensity alternating between normal intensity and a reduced intensity. Legal devices can be used on either low beam or high beam and will have the appearance of a loose connection. Devices that increase above normal intensity, or are easily confused with an emergency vehicle light, are not in compliance with the federal standard and are prohibited.

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